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ABSTRACT

The demand for family foster care services has increased rapidly during the past decade, as has the number of special needs children requiring foster care. This monograph presents information collected over the past 20 years concerning policies and programs which have been used to retain and recruit foster parents. The ever-increasing need for foster parents in the United States is reviewed. Part 1 of the monograph provides a historical overview of the general history of foster parenting itself and subsequent training programs developed prior to 1980. The contemporary period of 1982 to the present is examined by focusing on 21 specific local, sate and national projects which have added to the knowledge base on retention and/or recruitment of suitable foster parents. Part 2 of the monograph provides recommendations based on the projects discussed in Part 1. Twenty five specific recommendations for retention and support of foster parents are enumerated and explained in detail. Three specific guidelines for recruitment and development of foster parents are also presented and detailed. The final set of recommendations provides suggestions for evaluation of the proposed plans for recruitment and retention of foster parents. A summary of the urgency and importance of implementation of successful programs concludes the book. Contains 73 references. (SD)

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